



Lexington

Town Government Structure

Citizens' Academy
15 September 2015

Lexington Town Government

A participatory democracy allowing Town Residents to shape the character and services of the Lexington Community.

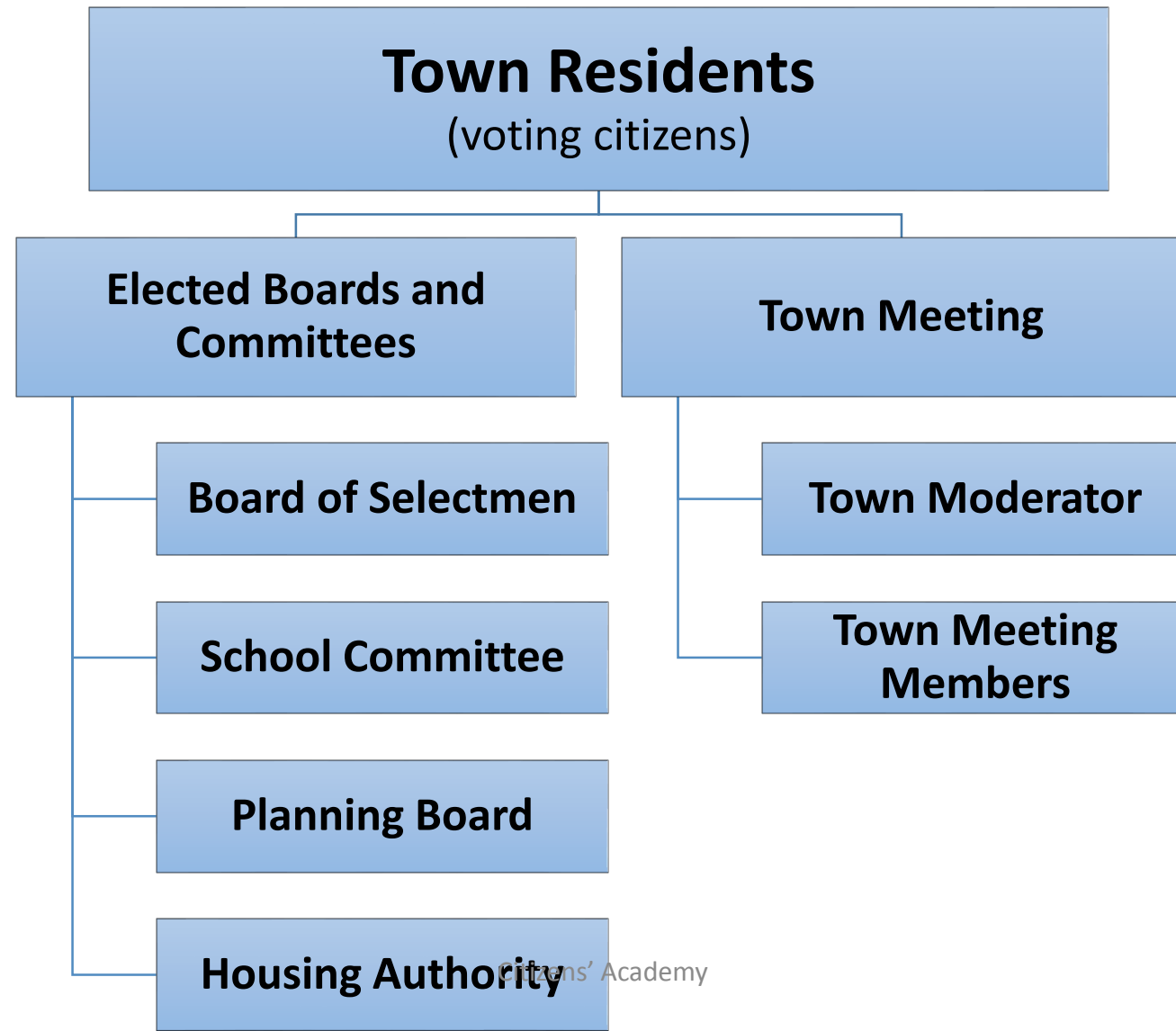
- Volunteer Elected Officials
- Volunteer Committee and Board Members
- Professional Municipal Staff

Professional Staff

Run Daily Operations

- Town Manager Supervises
 - Public Safety – Police and Fire
 - Public Works
 - Facilities
 - Building Inspections
 - Tax Collection
 - Parks & Recreation
 - Conservation
 - Public Health
 - Human Services
 - ...
- School Superintendent Supervises
 - Schools
 - Facilities

Lexington Volunteer Government Structure



Elected Boards and Committees

Board of Selectmen

Main Focus: Chief Elected Officials – set policy and direction of the Town

- Hire and Oversee Town Manager who runs daily Town operations
- Fulfill State Statutory Functions
 - Alcohol Licensing Authority
 - Road Commissioners
 - Call Elections
 - Call Town Meetings
 - Propose Town Budget
 - Appoint many boards and committees
 - . . .

Board of Selectmen

5 Members, elected to overlapping 3-year terms

- Joe Pato, chairman (Term March 2013 – March 2016)
- Peter Kelley (Term March 2003 – March 2018)
- Norm Cohen (Term March 2005 – March 2017)
- Michelle Ciccolo (Term March 2014 – March 2017)
- Suzie Barry (Term November 2014 – March 2016)

School Committee

Main Focus: Schools

- Set school policy
- Control and allocate school budget
- Hire and Oversee School Superintendent to run School Department

5 Members, elected to overlapping 3-year terms

Planning Board

Main Focus: Land Use and Development

- Develop and Maintain the Comprehensive Plan
- Administer Subdivision Regulations
- Manage Zoning By-laws

5 Members, elected to overlapping 3-year terms

Housing Authority

Main Focus: Administer Public Housing

- Oversee operations at
 - Federal Housing Programs
 - State Housing Programs
 - LHA owned units

5 Members, 4 elected to overlapping 5-year terms, 1 appointed by Governor

Town Meeting

Town Moderator

Main Focus: Preside at Town Meeting

- Runs Town Meetings
- Appoints Finance Committees
 - Appropriation
 - Capital Expenditures

The Moderator is elected to a one-year term

Town Meeting Members

Main Focus: Represent Neighbors at Town Meetings

- Vote at Town Meeting
- Authorize and appropriate the Town budget
- Authorize any borrowing
- Approve zoning changes
- Approve by-law changes

21 members from each of 9 precincts (189 total)
elected to overlapping 3-year terms

Volunteer Committees

Committees

Volunteer Boards and Committees touch all aspects of Town governance and provide the opportunity for all residents to participate in shaping the life of the town.

Unlike elected positions, which must be filled by a Lexington voter, most committees and boards are open to participation by all residents.

Breadth of Committees

More than 50 committees span a wide range of interests:

- Bicycle Advisory
- Community Farming
- Council for the Arts
- Economic Advisory
- Greenways Corridors
- Human Services
- Human Rights
- Sidewalks
- Tourism
- Town Celebrations
- Trees
- 2020 Vision

Full list at: <http://www.lexingtonma.gov/selectmen/committee.cfm>

Get Involved!

- Apply to join a committee
 - Attend committee meetings
 - Talk with existing members and the chair
 - File an application with the Selectmen's office

<http://www.lexingtonma.gov/Selectmen/committee.cfm#ApplicationProcess>
- Encourage others to take the full Citizen's Academy program
- Run for Town Meeting